GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:583
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2011
STAKE OF ONGC IN NUCLEAR PLANTS
Saroj Shri Tufani

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a): Whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) proposes to purchase 49 percent holding in one of the five proposed nuclear energy plants of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL);

(b):if so, the details thereof;

(c): whether the work of ONGC for exploration of oil and gas is likely to get affected due to diversion of its resources towards nuclear plants; and

(d): if so, the reason for entry of ONGC into nuclear sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. Jaipal Reddy)

(a): Yes Madam, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is in preliminary discussion with Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) for evaluating investment opportunity in nuclear power segment through a joint venture. At this stage, no decision regarding level of equity participation has been taken.

(b): Presently, the matter is under discussion between ONGC and NPCIL and as of now no formal agreement has been entered into.

(c) & (d): As per ONGC's charter as an integrated energy company, ONGC explores various possibilities to maximize availability of energy resources to the nation. Subject initiatives are normally through Joint Venture / Special Purpose Vehicle route where the investments are of marginal nature and this in no way shifts ONGC's focus or diverts funds from the core activities of oil & gas exploration.